**Ancient Egypt L.E.G.S. Essay**

**"In order to maintain order and stability, how have past civilizations arranged different groups and their responsibilities (society), organized power to control their populations (government and law), and extended power over other lands (empire)?"**

Prologue

The civilization of Egypt began along the Nile River in Egypt about 6,500 years ago, or in about 4,540 B.C. It began 2000 years after farming started in Catal Huyuk, and 1500 years after the civilizations in Mesopotamia began. Early Egyptian society developed in the Old Kingdom, and turned into a powerful empire in the New Kingdom era. It obviously developed from a small civilization, to a sprawling empire.

The Government and Law of Egypt

Before the Old Kingdom started, Egypt was divided into two regions, upper [south] Egypt, and lower [northern] Egypt. King Menes of Upper Egypt led his armies into Lower Egypt and conquered it wholesale in 3100 B.C.! He made a new crown that was the crown of Upper and Lower Egypt. It was called the crown of unified Egypt. Menes was the first Pharaoh of the Old Kingdom Era in Egypt. The Old Kingdom lasted from 2700 B.C. to 2200 B.C. There were many pharaohs of Egypt in all three of the eras of Egypt. The word Pharaoh referred to “the great palace” in which the pharaoh lived. It later became the name of all Egyptian rulers or kings. In the beginning of Egyptian civilization, the Pharaohs dealt with trade, religion, and local governments. As Egyptian civilization developed, the Pharaoh became the center of Egyptian civilization. He was the leader of the Egyptian religion, leader of trade, overseer of productions, and many more positions. One very important one was that he controlled the waterways and made sure that the water got equally distributed to farmers across the country.

The Middle Kingdom Era in Egypt started in 2000 B.C. This era struck in new innovations in ruling and dealings with outside countries which led to weakness, which eventually led to the Hyksos ruling over Lower Egypt. The Pharaoh gave Egyptian citizens new rights, and replaced regional leaders with governors who reported individually to him. They also got direct orders from him. Trade also prospered during this era. This led to Asian people settling in the Nile Delta, who were the Hyksos who took control of the Nile Delta, crippling Egypt. This marked the end of the Middle Kingdom. The Egyptian Pharaohs also had much advancement in the Egyptian New Kingdom in their new territories that will be described in the Empire section.

Egyptian Society